

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 60% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 or the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide having biological activity;

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- b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 20 nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 or the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;
- c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;
- d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;
- e) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a biologically active polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 under stringent conditions; and,

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f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of a), b), c), d), or e).

2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which is selected from the 5 group consisting of:

a) a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9, the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, or a complement thereof; and,

10 b) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, or a complement thereof.

15 3. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.

4. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising nucleic acid sequences encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

20 5. A host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

6. The host cell of claim 5 which is a mammalian host cell.

25 7. A non-human mammalian host cell containing the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

8. An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a biological active polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid 30 molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 60% identical to a nucleic

acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 or the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;

5                   b)        a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 under stringent conditions; and,

10                  c)        a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8; and

15                  d)        a polypeptide having at least 60% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein the polypeptide has biological activity.

9.        The isolated polypeptide of claim 8 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

20        10.      The polypeptide of claim 8 further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

11.      An antibody which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8.

25        12.      A method for producing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

30            a)        a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;

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5        b)        a polypeptide comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, 5,

5        8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;

10        c)        a biologically active naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9; and,

15        d)        a polypeptide having at least 60% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein said polypeptide has biological activity;

15        comprising culturing the host cell of claim 5 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.

13.        A method for detecting the presence of a polypeptide of claim 8 in a sample, comprising:

20        a)        contacting the sample with a compound which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8; and,

13        b)        determining whether the compound binds to the polypeptide in the sample.

25        14.        The method of claim 13, wherein the compound which binds to the polypeptide is an antibody.

15.        A kit comprising a compound which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8 and instructions for use.

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16. A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a sample, comprising the steps of:

a) contacting the sample with a nucleic acid probe or primer which selectively hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule; and,

5 b) determining whether the nucleic acid probe or primer binds to a nucleic acid molecule in the sample.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the sample comprises mRNA molecules and is contacted with a nucleic acid probe.

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18. A kit comprising a compound which selectively hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and instructions for use.

19. A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide of claim 8 comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a polypeptide, or a cell expressing a polypeptide of claim 8 with a test compound; and,

b) determining whether the polypeptide binds to the test compound.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

a) detection of binding by direct detecting of test compound/polypeptide binding;

b) detection of binding using a competition binding assay; and,

25 c) detection of binding using an assay for receptor-mediated signal transduction.

21. A method for modulating the activity of a polypeptide of claim 8 comprising contacting a polypeptide or a cell expressing a polypeptide of claim 8 with a

compound which binds to the polypeptide in a sufficient concentration to modulate the activity of the polypeptide.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the cell is derived from tissues selected  
5 from the group consisting of cardiovascular, inflammatory, malignant, immune, virus-  
infected, fibrotic tissue, brain and spinal cord.

23. A method for identifying a compound which modulates the activity of a polypeptide of claim 8, comprising:

10 a) contacting a polypeptide of claim 8 with a test compound; and,  
b) determining the effect of the test compound on the activity of the polypeptide to thereby identify a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide.

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